

SHORTER NOTES

"DISAPPEARING WILD FLOWERS."—In the *Journal of Botany* for May, under the above heading, it is stated that the *London Times* has published several letters calling attention to the destruction of our wild flowers and stating that "it is time that additional steps were taken to protect wild plants and flowers." In Devonshire, the home of the primroses, they are rapidly disappearing and there are very few of them left within a circle of twenty-five miles around London. Ferns and orchids also have been extirpated. "Even in areas such as public parks, where special prohibitions are in force, there has been increased defiance of them since the War, mainly owing to the diminution of effective supervision." This has been the case in the parks of New York City also and it emphasizes the danger to any flower that has become popular or is specially desirable.

E. G. BRITTON

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

NEW SPECIFIC NAME.—I find that the specific name *oligocaenica* proposed by me* for a new species of *Inga* from the Culebra formation of the Canal Zone is antedated by *Inga oligocaenica* described by Engelhardt† in 1898 for a species from the Oligocene of the Mittelgebirge in Bohemia. The Panama Oligocene species may be called *Inga culebrana* in allusion to both the horizon and the locality.

EDWARD W. BERRY

A NEW FORM OF *STANLEYA*.—In the extreme western part of Kansas there is a *Stanleya* which agrees with none of those described. It is nearest to *S. glauca* Rydberg, but the leaves are much broader and the stem is not bluish green. Very possibly it should be considered a distinct species, but at present we do not know its exact status, and it seems better to regard it as a race or subspecies of *S. glauca*.

* Berry, E. W., Bull. U. S. Natl. Mus. 103: 32. pl. 16. f. 2. 1918.

† Engelhardt, H., Tertiaerflora von Berand, 61. pl. 4. f. 12. 1898.

Stanleya glauca latifolia

Tall, robust, with pale green somewhat ribbed but not angular stems; cauline leaves light green, thick, glaucous, with a bloom, entirely glabrous, broad-lanceolate, entire, with thick well developed narrowly winged petioles, which on large leaves are not so long as half the width (45 mm.) of blade. Flowers in the usual racemes, bright canary-yellow, becoming orange in fading; sepals about 12 mm. long, narrow, parallel-sided; petals about 11 mm long, of which 4 mm. is the lanceolate blade; claw hairy on inner face; filaments perfectly glabrous; pods long-stipitate, arcuate.

Edith, Kansas, May, 1920 (*Rowena Kesler*).

Type in U. S. National Museum; part of same in New York Botanical Garden.

T. D. A. COCKERELL

REVIEWS

Henry and Flood's The Douglas Fir.*

The Douglas spruce has always been regarded as a variable species and many have wondered if not more than one species have been included under that name. It is therefore very interesting to know that this problem has been taken up lately and been attacked from more than one standpoint, the gross anatomy of the branches, leaves and fruit, but a comparison has also been made as to the difference in odor, minute anatomy of the leaves and chemical composition of the oil distilled from the leaves.

The authors admit three species and one variety native to North America and four species native to China and Japan. The North American species, which interest us most, are distinguished as follows:

"1. *P. Douglasii* Carrière. Pacific coast region of North America. Branchlets pubescent. Leaves thin, flat beneath, with pineapple odor. Cones 3 to 4 inches long, with straight erect bracts.

"var. *caesia* Schwerin. Northern Rocky Mountains. This differs from the type in the glabrous branchlets, the thicker needles and smaller cones, 2½ inches long.

* Augustine Henry and Margaret G. Flood, Proc. Royal Irish Acad. 35: Sect. B: 67-92. pl. 12-14. My 1920.